



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5170

LCO No. 3778

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION FOR
TEACHERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Commissioner of Education, within available
2 appropriations, shall provide grants of one thousand dollars to assist
3 teachers seeking national board certification to meet the costs of such
4 certification. Teachers may apply for such grants to the Department of
5 Education at such time and in such manner as the commissioner
6 prescribes.

7 Sec. 2. Subsection (k) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
8 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

9 (k) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under
10 section 10-145d, in not less than three years nor more than eight years
11 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to
12 subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement of the
13 superintendent in whose school district such certificate holder was
14 employed, or the superintendent of a nonpublic school approved by
15 the State Board of Education, in whose school such certificate holder

16 was employed, that the provisional educator certificate holder and
17 such superintendent have mutually determined or approved an
18 individual program pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (j) of this
19 section and upon the statement of such superintendent that such
20 certificate holder has a record of competency in the discharge of his or
21 her duties during such provisional period, the state board upon receipt
22 of a proper application shall issue such certificate holder a professional
23 educator certificate. A signed recommendation from the
24 superintendent of schools for the local or regional board of education
25 or from the superintendent of a nonpublic school approved by the
26 State Board of Education shall be evidence of competency. Such
27 recommendation shall state that the person who holds or has held a
28 provisional educator certificate has successfully completed at least
29 three school years of satisfactory teaching for one or more local or
30 regional boards of education or such nonpublic schools. Each applicant
31 for a certificate pursuant to this subsection shall provide to the
32 Department of Education, in such manner and form as prescribed by
33 the commissioner, evidence that the applicant has successfully
34 completed coursework pursuant to subsection (h) or (j) of this section,
35 as appropriate.

36 (2) Upon application, a teacher from another state who has taught in
37 such other state for a minimum of five years and is nationally board
38 certified shall be issued a professional educator certificate with the
39 appropriate endorsement, subject to the provisions of subsection (m) of
40 this section relating to denial of applications for certification.

41 Sec. 3. Subdivision (1) of subsection (l) of section 10-145b of the
42 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
43 thereof:

44 (l) (1) For certified employees of local and regional boards of
45 education, except as provided in this subdivision, each professional
46 educator certificate shall be valid for five years and continued every
47 five years thereafter upon the successful completion of professional

48 development activities which shall consist of not less than ninety hours
49 of continuing education, as determined by the local or regional board
50 of education in accordance with this section, or successful completion
51 of a national board certification assessment in the appropriate
52 endorsement area, during each successive five-year period. (A) Such
53 continuing education completed by certified employees with an early
54 childhood nursery through grade three or an elementary endorsement
55 who hold a position requiring such an endorsement shall include at
56 least fifteen hours of training in the teaching of reading and reading
57 readiness and assessment of reading performance, including methods
58 of teaching language skills necessary for reading, reading
59 comprehension skills, phonics and the structure of the English
60 language during each five-year period. (B) Such continuing education
61 requirement completed by certified employees with elementary or
62 middle grades endorsements who hold a position requiring such an
63 endorsement shall include at least fifteen hours of training in the use of
64 computers in the classroom during each five-year period. (C) Such
65 continuing education completed by (i) the superintendent of schools,
66 and (ii) employees employed in positions requiring an intermediate
67 administrator or supervisory certificate, or the equivalent thereof, and
68 whose administrative or supervisory duties equal at least fifty per cent
69 of the assigned time of such [employee] employees, shall include at
70 least fifteen hours of training in the evaluation of teachers pursuant to
71 section 10-151b during each five-year period. (D) In the case of
72 certified employees with a bilingual education endorsement who hold
73 positions requiring such an endorsement (i) in an elementary school
74 and who do not hold an endorsement in elementary education, such
75 continuing education taken on or after July 1, 1999, shall only count
76 toward the ninety-hour requirement if it is in language arts, reading
77 and mathematics, and (ii) in a middle or secondary school and who do
78 not hold an endorsement in the subject area they teach, such
79 continuing education taken on or after July 1, 1999, shall only count
80 toward the ninety-hour requirement if it is in such subject area or
81 areas. During each five-year period in which a professional educator

82 certificate is valid, a holder of such certificate who has not completed
83 the ninety hours of continuing education required pursuant to this
84 subdivision, and who has not been employed while holding such
85 certificate by a local or regional board of education for all or part of the
86 five-year period, shall, upon application, be reissued such certificate
87 for five years minus any period of time such holder was employed
88 while holding such certificate by a local or regional board of education,
89 provided there shall be only one such reissuance during each five-year
90 period in which such certificate is valid. A certified employee of a local
91 or regional board of education who is a member of the General
92 Assembly and who has not completed the ninety hours of continuing
93 education required pursuant to this subdivision for continuation of
94 [his] a certificate, upon application, shall be reissued a professional
95 educator certificate for a period of time equal to six months for each
96 year [he] served in the General Assembly during the previous five
97 years. Continuing education hours completed during the previous five
98 years shall be applied toward such ninety-hour requirement which
99 shall be completed during the reissuance period in order for such
100 employee to be eligible to have his or her certificate continued. The
101 cost of the professional development activities required under this
102 subsection for certified employees of local or regional boards of
103 education shall be shared by the state and local or regional boards of
104 education, except for those activities identified by the State Board of
105 Education as the responsibility of the certificate holder. Each local and
106 regional board of education shall make available, annually, at no cost
107 to its certified employees not fewer than eighteen hours of professional
108 development activities for continuing education credit. Such activities
109 may be made available by a board of education directly, through a
110 regional educational service center or cooperative arrangement with
111 another board of education or through arrangements with any
112 continuing education provider approved by the State Board of
113 Education. Local and regional boards of education shall grant
114 continuing education credit for professional development activities
115 which the certified employees of the board of education are required to

116 attend, professional development activities offered in accordance with
117 the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-220a, or
118 professional development activities which the board may approve for
119 any individual certified employee. Each board of education shall
120 determine the specific professional development activities to be made
121 available with the advice and assistance of the teachers employed by
122 such board, including representatives of the exclusive bargaining unit
123 for such teachers pursuant to section 10-153b. The time and location for
124 the provision of such activities shall be in accordance with either an
125 agreement between the board of education and the exclusive
126 bargaining unit pursuant to said section 10-153b or, in the absence of
127 such agreement or to the extent such agreement does not provide for
128 the time and location of all such activities, in accordance with a
129 determination by the board of education.

130 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide funds to assist teachers to obtain national board certification. To count national board certification for purposes of the continuing education requirement for teachers. To allow teachers who have attained national board certification and move to this state to be certified by the Department of Education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. CARDIN, 53rd Dist.; REP. BOUGHTON, 138th Dist.
SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.; REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.
REP. CURREY, 10th Dist.; REP. WALLACE, 109th Dist.
REP. NAFIS, 27th Dist.